

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 INR-10
PM-05 DODE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SAA-01 SES-02 H-01
SSO-00 INRE-00 L-03 /065 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:MLEVITSKY:MVS
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL
L/NEA:DSMALL
IO/UNP:PSBRIDGES
-----052527 190312Z /61-S

O P 190145Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211403

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PORG, LE, IS, UN

SUBJECT: 1949 LEBANON-ISRAEL ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

REF: A) USUN 3169; B) TEL AVIV 10247
C) BEIRUT 4702; D) TEL AVIV 10517

1. WHILE THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS (REFTEL C), ON BALANCE
WE BELIEVE THAT GOI "REINSTATEMENT" OF 1949 LEBANON/
ISRAEL ARMISTICE AGREEMENT REGIME WOULD BE A USEFUL STEP
CARRYING ADVANTAGES FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS. IN THE NEAR
TERM, IT WOULD PROVIDE STRUCTURE FOR DIRECT LEBANESE/
ISRAELI CONTACTS IN ILMAC WHICH WE SEE AS PARTICULARLY
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IMPORTANT DURING CURRENT WRESTLING OVER PROBLEM OF MOVING
LAF BATTALION SOUTH. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR
LEBANESE TO GET ISRAELI VIEWS DIRECTLY ON LAF MOVE AT
AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL AND VICE VERSA. IF ISRAELIS ARE
SERIOUS ABOUT ASSISTING THE MOVE, ILMAC MEETING WOULD
ALLOW LEBANESE TO PROBE FOR ELEMENTS OF WORKABLE
ARRANGEMENTS AND ENLIST ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR THEM. IN

LONGER TERM, ILMAC COULD SERVE AS A FORUM FOR REGULAR CONTACTS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENTS CAN SHARE THEIR CONCERNS BOTH ON ROUTINE BORDER MATTERS AND ON BROADER TOPICS. IF A CERTAIN REGULARITY CAN BE BUILT INTO CONTACTS, WE SEE ADVANTAGES IN TERMS OF INCREASING GOL

SOVEREIGNTY IN THE SOUTH AND DEALING WITH ISRAEL'S SECURITY CONCERNS.

2. FOR TEL AVIV: YOU SHOULD APPROACH DAYAN TO GIVE HIM OUR VIEW THAT ISRAEL'S AGREEMENT TO REACTIVATE 1949 AGREEMENT WOULD BE A USEFUL AND POSITIVE STEP, DRAWING ON ABOVE POINTS.

3. FOR BEIRUT: YOU SHOULD INFORM BOUTROS OF OUR APPROACH TO THE ISRAELIS MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE BELIEVE ISRAEL'S AGREEMENT TO CONSIDER 1949 LEBANON/ISRAEL ARMISTICE AGREEMENT REINSTATED WOULD BE A POSITIVE STEP. WE TAKE ISRAEL'S APPARENT DESIRE TO DO THIS AT FACE VALUE AND VIEW IT AS A SIGN OF ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH GOL.

-- ILMAC MEETINGS WOULD ALLOW BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS AND CONCERNS DIRECTLY AND TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL

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PRACTICAL AND REALISTIC ARRANGEMENTS IN SUCH QUESTIONS AS MOVEMENT OF LAF TO THE SOUTH AND INCREASING GOL AUTHORITY IN THE AREA.

-- WE NOTE THAT GOL CONSIDERS 1949 AGREEMENT AS STILL IN EFFECT AND WE ARE APPROACHING ISRAEL TO ENCOURAGE A DECISION TO CONSIDER THE 1949 AGREEMENT REINSTATED. WE WILL EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT TECHNICAL ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT, SUCH AS ILMAC, CAN QUICKLY BE PUT BACK INTO OPERATION. VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, RAPOPORT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, DATA, AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE211403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLEVITSKY:MVS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780339-0396
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780845/aaaabkuu.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90ed5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 3169, 78 TEL AVIV 10247
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1684266
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1949 LEBANON-ISRAEL ARMISTICE AGREEMENT
TAGS: PBOR, PORO, LE, IS, UN
To: BEIRUT TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/90ed5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014